

AGENDA



Thursday, February 14, 2008

Item(s) to Set Public Hearing(s)
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**Item No. 62**

Subject: Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance on first reading regarding the application submitted by American Medical Response of Texas, Inc. (AMR) to renew a non-emergency medical transfer franchise under Chapter 10-2 of the City Code. (Suggested Date and Time: March 6, 2008, 6:00 p.m., at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX).

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Ernesto Rodriguez, Acting Executive Director, 972-7048

Prior Council Action: April 24, 2003 to renew AMR's franchise for a five-year term

In order for a private ambulance company to provide non-emergency medical transfer services within the city limits it must obtain a franchise from the City of Austin. Chapter 10-2 of the City Code requires that a public hearing be held regarding such applications. The purpose of this RCA is to request that City Council set a public hearing for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2008, regarding a non-emergency transfer franchise application. Currently, two companies hold non-emergency transfer franchises in Austin, American Medical Response of Texas, Inc (AMR) and Acadian Ambulance Service (Acadian). Non-emergency medical transfers typically occur between skilled nursing facilities and hospitals and are usually prescheduled by medical personnel.

AMR has held a non-emergency medical transfer franchise with the City of Austin since 1996 when it took over the original franchise held by Gold Cross. This franchise will expire on June 23, 2008. AMR is requesting a renewal of the franchise for a five-year term.

Staff analysis of AMR's franchise renewal application is currently being conducted. This analysis will include a review of the applicant's operations, performance, and customer satisfaction ratings as a current franchise provider in Austin. The Austin-Travis County EMS Advisory Board will be reviewing the staff recommendation prior to the public hearing that is being requested for March 6, 2008.